(d) whether such levies would ultimately trigger a cascading effect thereby making essential commodities dearer because of transportation cost involved?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) A proposal to enact a comprehensive legislation for unorganised workers and raising of funds required to meet the Government's contribution towards the cost of certain social security schemes for such workers is under active consideration of the Government.

(c) No decision on building up of strategic storage facility has been taken yet.

(d) Petroleum products are universal intermediates and any increase in their prices affect the other sectors of the economy.

National Commission on Labour

t1801. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Commission on Labour during the year, 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said Commission would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Loan to institutions from EPF

†1802. SHRI RAJIV RAN JAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that loan is given to other institutions from Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, whether any policy have been formulated in this regard;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the institutions and projects to which money was given from this fund alongwith the quantum of money given to each, till September, 2003?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Creation of new employment opportunities

†1803. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any target in terms of number of new employment opportunities to be created during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, what is the fixed target in terms of numbers;

(c) the number of additional employment opportunities to be provided to illiterate, literate and unskilled labourers in the said fixed target in terms of number separately; and

(d) the areas in which these employment opportunities would be created?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities is being targeted during the Tenth Plan period. Out of these, nearly 3 crore employment opportunities will be created in the normal growth process assuming 8% GDP Growth and remaining 2 crore through special employment generation programmes. This will benefit all categories of unemployed including illiterate, literate, skilled and unskilled labourers.

(d) Major areas identified for creating these employment opportunities include Agriculture, Irrigation, Agro-forestry, Small & Medium Enterprises, Information and Communication Technology, Tourism and other services.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.